

# Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 16 June 1994

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Statistics

## Unemployment rate falls below ten per cent

In May 1994 the trend estimate of the unemployment rate fell to 9.9 per cent, the first time since August 1991 that the rate has fallen below ten per cent. The trend estimate of employment increased to 7,850,100 in May 1994, 0.6 per cent lower than the June 1990 peak of 7,894,100. The trend estimate of unemployment decreased for the eighth successive month and stood at 866,900 in May 1994, the lowest level since October 1991. The trend estimate of the participation rate fell slightly to 62.6 per cent.

### Employment



The seasonally adjusted estimate of employed persons for May 1994 was 7,863,000, an increase of 30,500 since April 1994. Full-time employment increased by 21,400 to 5,981,700 while part-time employment increased by 9,000 to 1,881,300. For males, employment increased by 11,700 to 4,514,600 with an increase of 14,600 in full-time employment. Female employment increased by 18,800 to 3,348,400 with increases of 6,900 and 11,900 respectively in full-time and part-time employment.

### LABOUR FORCE SURVEY ESTIMATES Seasonally adjusted

	Employed				Unemployment rate — per cent —	Participation rate — per cent —
	Full-time workers	Part-time workers	Total	Unemployed		
	— '000 —					
1993						
December	5 941.5	1 850.5	7 792.0	921.5	10.6	62.9
1994						
January	5 920.5	1 884.7	7 805.3	917.7	10.5	62.9
February	5 960.3	1 859.4	7 819.7	913.9	10.5	62.9
March	5 951.4	1 875.3	7 826.8	902.7	10.3	62.9
April	5 960.2	1 872.3	7 832.5	875.1	10.1	62.6
May	5 981.7	1 881.3	7 863.0	851.8	9.8	62.6

### Unemployment

In May 1994, the seasonally adjusted estimate of unemployed persons fell by 23,300 and now stands at 851,800. The number of unemployed persons seeking full-time work fell by 30,300 to 702,300 due to falls of 18,100 and 12,200 respectively in the number of unemployed males and females seeking full-time work. Unemployed persons seeking part-time work increased by 6,900 to 149,500 with similar increases for males and females.



### Unemployment rate

The seasonally adjusted estimate of the unemployment rate fell 0.3 percentage points to 9.8 per cent in May 1994, the first time since August 1991 the rate has fallen below 10.0 per cent. For males, the unemployment rate decreased by 0.3 percentage points to 10.1 per cent and for females, the unemployment rate decreased 0.2 percentage points to 9.3 per cent.

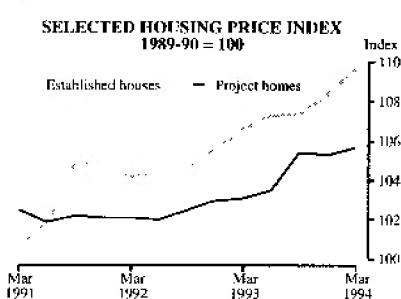
*Continued ...*

## Participation rate

The May 1994 seasonally adjusted estimate of the labour force participation rate remained unchanged at 62.6 per cent. For males, the participation rate fell for the fourth successive month and now stands at 73.3 per cent, while the female participation rate increased slightly to 52.2 per cent.

*For further information, order the publication Labour Force, Australia, Preliminary (6202.0), or contact Heather Crawford on (06) 252 6525.*

## Established house prices move up



The price index of established houses in Australia rose 1.1 per cent between the December quarter 1993 and the March quarter 1994. Falls in Melbourne (–1.1%) and Canberra (–0.3%), partially offset rises in other capital cities ranging from 1.3 per cent in Brisbane and Hobart to 3.9 per cent in Perth.

In the year to March quarter 1994, the index rose 2.8 per cent. Positive annual movements were recorded in six cities with increases ranging from 2.3 per cent in Melbourne to 17.3 per cent in Darwin. Decreases were recorded in Canberra (–1.4%) and Adelaide (–0.5%).

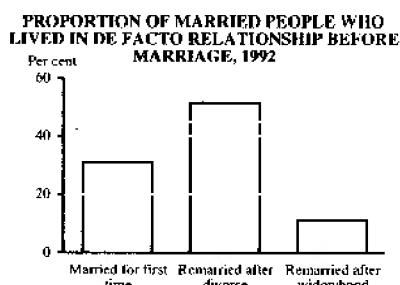
Project home prices for Australia increased 0.4 per cent between the December quarter 1993 and the March quarter 1994. Movements ranged from –0.6 per cent in Melbourne to 3.1 per cent in Darwin.

**HOUSING PRICES, MARCH QUARTER 1994**  
Percentage change

	Established houses		Project homes	
	From previous quarter	From corresponding quarter of previous year	From previous quarter	From corresponding quarter of previous year
Sydney	2.1	2.5	0.7	2.4
Melbourne	–1.1	2.3	–0.6	2.5
Brisbane	1.3	2.9	0.5	0.9
Adelaide	2.0	–0.5	1.5	7.2
Perth	3.9	8.7	1.1	3.3
Hobart	1.3	4.3	0.8	2.4
Darwin	1.4	17.3	3.1	8.5
Canberra	–0.3	–1.4	–0.5	–0.2
<i>Weighted average of eight capital cities</i>	1.1	2.8	0.4	2.5

*For further information, order the publication House Price Indexes: Eight Capital Cities (6416.0), or contact Alison Yardley on (06) 252 5263.*

## Australia's diverse families



Almost 9 in 10 people live with at least one other family member. In 1992, there were almost 4.8 million families in Australia, compared with 4.1 million families in 1982.

Of all major family types, one parent families grew at the fastest rate between 1982 and 1992 (42%). Most one parent families are formed through separation and divorce, rather than through single parenthood — over half (57%) of all lone parents in 1992 were divorced or separated. Approximately one million children lived in one parent families.

Couple families grew by 15 per cent in the ten years to 1992. Almost 5 million children lived in couple families, and they were more likely to be dependent than children in one parent families (81% compared with 70%).

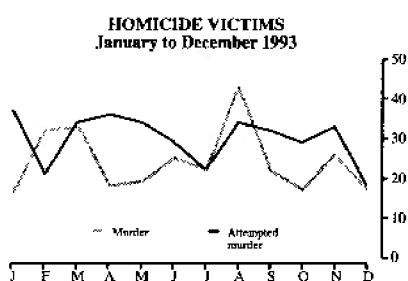
Eight out of 10 children aged 24 and under lived in a family with both natural parents. Ninety-six per cent of children of these ages lived with their natural mother. Thirteen per cent of all children lived only with their natural mother, and 5 per cent lived with their natural mother and step father. A smaller proportion of children lived only with their natural father (2%) and less than one per cent lived with their natural father and step mother. Less than one per cent of children were in the care of a family member other than a natural or step parent.

Over half (56%) of marriages registered in 1992 were preceded by a period of de facto living. The increase in couples living together before marriage over the past two decades is due not only to an increase in the number of young people living together but also to an increase in older couples living together. Of currently married people who had remarried after divorce, 52 per cent had lived together before their most recent marriage, compared with 32 per cent of people who were currently married for the first time.

PROPORTION OF CHILDREN AGED 0 TO 24 YEARS LIVING WITH NATURAL PARENTS, STEP PARENT(S) OR GUARDIAN, 1992  
(per cent)

Family type	Age					Total
	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	
<b>In couple families</b>						
Both natural parents	86.6	81.6	75.8	73.1	74.0	78.8
Natural mother, step father	0.8	3.8	6.9	7.0	6.0	4.7
Natural father, step mother	0.1	0.3	0.8	1.6	1.3	0.7
Other guardian	—	0.2	0.3	0.8	0.5	0.3
<b>In one parent families</b>						
Natural mother	11.9	12.6	13.4	13.4	13.0	12.8
Natural father	0.5	1.4	2.5	3.1	4.2	2.1
Other guardian	—	0.1	0.2	1.1	1.1	0.4
All children aged 15 to 24	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number ('000)	1 268.7	1 282.5	1 253.2	1 137.3	640.7	5 582.5

## Crime fighters get the facts

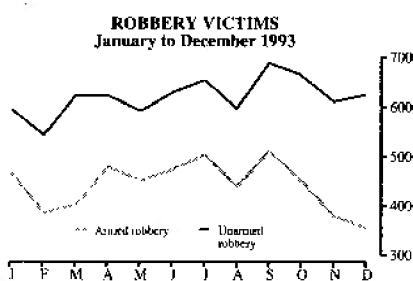


An initiative of the Australian Police Ministers Council was recently realised with the release on 31 May of *National Crime Statistics*, the first publication in a series dealing with national crime statistics.

The first issue relates to a selected range of offences that have been reported to or detected by police during the 1993 calendar year. It will be followed by regular six-monthly reports.

The aim of national crime statistics is to provide comparable data across the States and Territories. The statistics represent basic indicators of the relative level and nature of recorded crime in Australia and will provide a basis for measuring changes over time.

The publication is the work of the National Crime Statistics Unit (NCSU). The NCSU was established in September 1990 and is jointly funded by State and Territory Police Departments, the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department and the Australian Bureau of Statistics.



The first issue establishes a base for the six-monthly series by presenting data for 1993 in two six-monthly halves as well as providing full-year information on such issues as the type of location where crimes were committed and the use of weapons in particular kinds of offence. Data is given as actual numbers of victims and as a rate per 100,000 population for each month. The following table sets out aggregate rates for major offences for 1993.

**VICTIMS OF CRIMES, JANUARY TO DECEMBER 1993**  
(per 100,000 population)

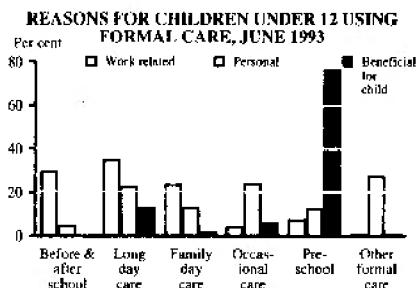
Type of crime	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
Homicide	3.48	3.45	6.78	7.25	4.59	2.33	17.23	1.67	4.54
Murder	1.95	1.17	1.29	2.19	1.73	1.27	7.13	0.67	1.64
Attempted murder	1.36	1.46	4.27	3.56	0.83	0.64	4.16	1.00	2.03
Manslaughter	0.10	0.09	0.32	0.34	0.60	—	2.38	—	0.22
Driving causing death	0.07	0.74	0.90	1.16	1.43	0.42	3.57	—	0.65
Sexual assault	63.19	70.42	71.26	107.61	75.29	26.71	115.86	25.43	70.15
Kidnap/abduction	5.21	1.52	3.89	5.13	1.97	2.76	1.78	5.69	3.64
Robbery	99.59	42.67	61.56	116.51	58.00	22.47	27.93	38.14	72.28
Armed robbery	38.49	22.19	29.85	33.52	28.31	9.54	8.32	17.40	30.05
Unarmed robbery	61.40	20.48	31.71	82.99	29.69	12.93	19.61	20.74	42.22
Blackmail/extortion	0.13	1.28	1.29	1.85	0.30	—	—	1.00	0.79
Unlawful entry									
with intent	1 838.17	1 803.25	2 410.24	2 844.56	3 145.33	2 531.91	2 190.73	1 910.34	2 160.73
Motor vehicle theft	650.17	618.05	501.99	704.11	966.14	281.53	446.23	555.37	637.02

Of the offences included in the scope of the national collection, unlawful entry with intent (burglary, break and enter) was the most reported crime with more than 380,000 cases nationally in 1993, a rate per 100,000 population of 2,160 for the year. There were almost as many victims of sexual assault as there were of robbery (12,390 and 12,765, at rates of 70 and 72 per 100,000 respectively) while 290 people (a rate of 1.6) were murdered in the year.

For further information, order the publication *National Crime Statistics* (4510.0), or contact Jude Barbeta on (03) 615 7370.

## 1.5 million kids use child care

Just under half of the 3,085,900 children in Australia under the age of 12 years use either formal or informal child care arrangements, or both, according to findings from the June 1993 Child Care Survey.



The survey showed that 596,200 children used some type of formal care arrangement. This included attendance at pre-school for 236,900 children, long day care 146,700, before and after school care programs 85,800, family day care 80,700, occasional care 50,000 and other formal care 30,000.

Parental work-related reasons accounted for 43 per cent of all children who used formal care. Of these children, 67 per cent attended before and after school care programs or long day care centres.

The labour force status of parents had a significant influence on the tendency for children to use formal care. Where at least one parent was not in the labour force, the proportion of children using formal care was around 15 per cent compared with about 25 per cent of children whose lone parent, or both parents in a couple family, were employed.

As weekly family income increased the proportion of children in formal care rose. For children in families with a weekly family income of less than \$160, 11 per cent used formal care compared with 29 per cent of children in families with a weekly family income in excess of \$1,280. The pattern was similar for children who used informal care but as weekly family income decreased, the percentage using neither formal nor informal care increased.

**CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENTS 1990 AND 1993**  
Children under 12 years of age

Child care arrangements	November 1990		June 1993	
	Number ('000)	Per cent	Number ('000)	Per cent
Formal care only	278.0	9.3	338.7	11.0
Informal care only	1 018.1	33.9	908.7	29.4
Formal and informal care	252.5	8.4	257.5	8.3
<i>Total</i>	<i>1 548.5</i>	<i>51.6</i>	<i>1 504.9</i>	<i>48.8</i>
Children who used neither formal nor informal care	1 455.2	48.4	1 581.0	51.2
<i>Total children</i>	<i>3 003.7</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>3 085.9</i>	<i>100.0</i>
Total formal care	530.4	17.6	596.2	19.3
Total informal care	1 270.5	42.3	1 166.2	37.8

The survey asked parents whether they felt they had a need for child care that was not being satisfied. Survey results showed that parents of 16 per cent or 489,200 children under 12 years reported a requirement for formal child care that was not being met. Overall, parental work was the single largest reason for additional formal care requirements needed by 156,600 or 32 per cent of children.

## Inquiries

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Some 1,166,200 children used some type of informal care arrangement. This included care by the child's siblings, other relatives or non-related people. Some 707,100 children or 61 per cent of children using informal care were cared for by other relatives such as grandparents, aunts and uncles.

*For further information, order the publication Child Care, Australia (4402.0), or contact Stephen Butcher on (02) 268 4214.*

## Order from the following:

### Expected releases over the fortnight to 28 June

- 15** Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, April 1994 (6407.0; \$11.00)
- 15** Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, April 1994 (6408.0; \$8.50)
- 16** Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia, April 1994 (6412.0; \$11.00)
- 16** Building Activity, Australia: Dwelling Unit Commencements, March Quarter 1994, Preliminary (8750.0; \$11.00)
- 17** Export Price Index, Australia, April 1994 (6405.0; \$8.50)
- 20** Australian National Accounts: State Accounts, March Quarter 1994 (5242.0; \$26.00)
- 20** Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia, April 1994 (5609.0; \$11.00)
- 22** Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, May 1994, Preliminary (9301.0; \$12.00)
- 23** Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia, April 1994 (6411.0; \$11.00)
- 23** Import Price Index, Australia, April 1994 (6414.0; \$8.50)
- 28** Manufacturing Production, Australia, May 1994, Preliminary (8301.0; \$11.00)

### Selected releases: 8 to 14 June

#### General

- Australian Standard Classification of Countries for Social Statistics (ASCCSS) Revision 1.03, 1990 (1269.0; free)
- NIF-10S Model Data Base Manual, March Qtr 1994 (1340.0; free)

#### Demography

- Australian Demographic Statistics, December Qtr 1993 (3101.0; \$17.00)

#### National accounts, Finance and Foreign trade

- Australian National Accounts: State Accounts, 1992-93 (5220.0; \$26.00)

#### Labour statistics and Prices

- The Labour Force, Aust. — Preliminary Data on Floppy Disk, May 1994 (6271.0; \$66.30)

- Award Rates of Pay Indexes, Aust., April 1994 (6312.0; \$13.00)

- Industrial Disputes, Aust., March 1994 (6321.0; \$11.00)

- Price Indexes of Copper Materials, Aust., May 1994 (6410.0; \$5.50)

- Price Indexes of Materials Used in Coal Mining, Aust., April 1994 (6415.0; \$11.00)

- Work Related Injuries and Illnesses, NSW, October 1993 (6301.1; \$14.00) — new issue

#### Agriculture

- Value of Agricultural Commodities Produced, Aust., 1992-93 (7503.0; \$22.50)

#### Manufacturing, Mining, Energy, Service industries

##### Building and construction

- Building Approvals, Qld, April 1994 (8731.3; \$11.00)

Key national indicators	Period	Units	Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on	
			Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year
<b>National accounts</b>						
Gross domestic product (GDP(A)) at 1989-90 prices	March qtr 94	\$m	95 551	100 244	1.9	5.0
<b>International accounts</b>						
Balance on current account (b)	April 94	\$m	1 091	-1 632	-18	—
Balance on merchandise trade (b)	"	"	209	-286	-51	-26
Balance on goods and services (b)	"	"	-109	405	-28	2
Merchandise exports	"	"	5 588	5 192	-5	6
Merchandise imports	"	"	-4 925	-5 478	-3	7
Net foreign debt	March qtr 94	\$m	167 264	n.a.	-2.1	3.0
Net foreign liabilities	"	"	233 967	n.a.	-0.8	11.0
<b>Consumption and investment</b>						
Retail turnover at current prices	April 94	\$m	8 156.9	8 453.4	-3.7	4.1
New capital expenditure at current prices	March qtr 94	"	5 728	6 397	5	-2
New motor vehicle registrations	April 94	no.	44 081	51 082	11.7	12.2
<b>Production</b>						
Manufacturers' sales at 1989-90 prices	March qtr 94	\$m	35 184	37 572	2.3	9.9
Dwelling unit approvals	April 94	no.	13 856	15 297	2.5	1.5
Building approvals	"	\$m	2 013.4	2 260.7	5.2	8.4
Building work done at 1989-90 prices	December qtr 93	"	6 643	6 303	-2.7	2.7
<b>Prices</b>						
Consumer price index	March qtr 94	1989-90 = 100.0	110.4	n.a.	0.4	1.4
Articles produced by manufacturing industry (d)	March 94	1988-89 = 100.0	115.2	n.a.	0.3	0.8
Materials used in manufacturing industries	March 94	1984-85 = 100.0	122.0	n.a.	0.2	3.1
<b>Labour force and demography</b>						
Employed persons	May 94	'000	7 879.2	7 863.0	0.4	3.0
Participation rate †	"	%	62.7	62.6	0.0	0.4
Unemployment rate †	"	"	9.7	9.8	-0.3	-1.0
Job vacancies	November qtr 93	'000	38.2	38.9	5.1	31.0
Average weekly overtime per employee	"	hours	1.30	1.22	1.7	8.0
Estimated resident population	September qtr 93	million	17.7	n.a.	0.3	1.0
Short-term overseas visitor arrivals	January 94	'000	251	252	-0.6	6.2
<b>Incomes</b>						
Company profits before income tax	March qtr 94	\$m	5 150	6 545	34.1	41.7
Av. weekly earnings, full-time adults; ordinary time	February 94	\$	612.30	609.50	0.9	3.1
<b>Financial markets</b>						
Interest rates (c) (monthly average)	April 94	% per annum	4.85	n.a.	-0.1	-0.4
90-day bank bills †	April 94	"	8.45	n.a.	0.5	0.9
10-year Treasury bonds †	April 94	per \$A	0.7165	n.a.	1	1

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (c) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (d) Later figures expected to be released Thursday, 16 June 1994.

NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Key State indicators	Period	Percentage change from same period previous year								
		NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
New capital expenditure*	December qtr 93	-20.0	30.3	-20.4	-27.3	26.8	-39.5	n.a.	n.a.	-1.5
Retail turnover (trend estimate)	April 94	5.8	3.7	6.8	5.6	9.0	3.4	n.a.	5.8	5.7
New motor vehicle registrations†	April 94	9.0	0.8	48.4	-5.4	1.6	-11.3	21.5	9.5	12.2
Number of dwelling unit approvals*	April 94	4.5	11.4	-5.6	-10.8	18.3	-15.4	-11.9	-37.6	1.5
Value of total building work done	December qtr 93	-1.3	-0.4	9.1	-6.1	23.8	14.2	42.9	-2.7	3.9
Employed persons*	May 94	3.3	2.5	5.0	0.0	3.4	2.0	-2.0	1.1	3.0
Capital city consumer price index	March qtr 94	0.8	1.6	1.6	1.8	2.1	2.6	1.5	1.2	1.4
Av. weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time)	February 94	4.5	1.6	3.8	2.1	1.9	4.0	+0.5	4.0	3.1
Population	September qtr 93	0.9	0.3	2.8	0.5	1.3	0.4	0.9	1.6	1.0
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc.	September qtr 93	6.3	0.1	9.1	2.4	9.0	5.4	18.4	12.0	6.7

\* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted.

Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 7). Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important. The ABS should be acknowledged as the source when reproducing or quoting any part of this publication.

